

unwilling to face reality and provide adequate funding to address this nation's housing needs.

Mr. Speaker, perhaps it is time for Congress to adjourn for the August recess. This way we can be assured that this Republican led House will not be able to inflict anymore of its "Compassionate Conservatism" on America.

Sadly, President Bush's promises to America are just talk, not action. He should be ashamed.

HONORING FRED MACHADO

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fernando "Fred" Machado for being selected as this year's Ag One Foundation Community Salute honoree. An event will be held in his honor on Saturday, August 23rd in Easton, California.

The Ag One Foundation was formed more than twenty years ago to raise funds to provide scholarships and grants for the CSUF College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. California Dairies is the naming sponsor of the event honoring Fred. The funds will be used to create an endowment in Machado's name, giving priority to students coming from the dairy industry.

Fred began as a tenant farmer and agricultural laborer during his early years. He now operates a 1,500-cow dairy and 730-acre farming operation that includes almonds, grapes, prunes and field crops. Machado is known for his long and devoted service to California agriculture which is why he was chosen for this honor. Through his work Fred has shown vigor and allegiance to agriculture, his community, and his country.

Machado has been given many honors and awards for his commitment to agricultural causes. He was appointed to serve on the USDA's Agricultural Trade Advisory Committee during the Regan Administration where he worked with committee members on major trade agreement negotiations. Fred received the Distinguished Service Award from both the California Farm Bureau Federation and the Fresno County Farm Bureau. Machado has also received recognition for his service on the boards of directors of the National Milk Producers Federation, Challenge Dairy, and Danish Creamy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Machado for his lifelong commitment to agriculture and his community. I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Fred many years of continued success.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN SAFETY ACT OF 2003

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, since colonial days, Stonington Borough has been tied to fishing. Today it is the home to Connecticut's

only commercial fishing fleet, and I am proud to be its congressional representative.

Commercial fishing continues to rank as one of the most hazardous occupations in America. According to the United States Coast Guard and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the annual fatality rate for commercial fishermen is about 150 deaths per 100,000 workers.

In order to increase the level of safety in the fishing industry, the U.S. Coast Guard require all fishing vessels to carry safety equipment. Required equipment can include a life raft that automatically inflates and floats free should the vessel sink; personal flotation devices or immersion suits; Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB); visual distress signals; and fire extinguishers.

When an emergency arises, safety equipment is priceless. At all other times, the cost of purchasing or maintaining life rafts, immersion suits, and EPIRBs must compete with other expenses such as loan payments, fuel, wages, maintenance, and insurance. Meeting all of these obligations is made more difficult by a regulatory framework that uses measures such as trip limits, days at sea, and gear alterations to manage our marine resources.

Commercial fishermen should not have to choose between safety equipment and other expenses. That's why I am introducing the "Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2003," which would provide for a tax credit equal to 75 percent of the amount paid by fishermen to purchase or maintain required safety equipment. The tax credit is capped at \$1,500 and includes expenses paid or incurred for maintenance of safety equipment required by federal regulation. Sens. Susan Collins (R-ME) and John Kerry (D-MA) have introduced identical legislation in the Senate.

The Commercial Fishermen Safety Act of 2003 could improve safety by giving commercial fishermen more of an incentive to purchase and care for safety equipment. I ask my colleagues to join me in helping commercial fishermen protect themselves while doing their jobs.

URGING FCC TO ADOPT NEUTRAL COMPETITION RULES

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. REYES. Speaker, since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, the cable industry has invested more than \$75 billion of private risk capital nationally, or about \$1,000 per customer. These investments—including \$45 million by Time Warner Cable in the Sixteenth District of Texas alone—have transformed cable's one-way video delivery system into a two-way interactive digital platform that offers consumers new competitive services—digital video, high-speed Internet access, cable telephony, and interactive and high-definition television.

Competition for residential high-speed Internet is here. Consumers today can choose among a variety of wireless and wire line providers. Cable's lead in the marketplace is due to its early investment in cable modem technology, aggressive marketing, generally lower prices and a consistently positive online experience for customers. I am proud that when

Time Warner Cable launched Road Runner high-speed online service in El Paso in 1998, it was the first Road Runner launch in Texas, and the eighth in the nation. Time Warner provides free cable modems to the schools and libraries in its communities, as do many cable operators, ensuring that our young people benefit directly, even if they do not have access to computers at home. Cable is a proactive player in the effort to address the Digital Divide.

Cable was the first industry to aggressively upgrade its networks to offer broadband Internet access to consumers at home, thereby creating the first real alternative to the much slower dial-up modem systems offered by local phone companies. Cable's rapid deployment of its always-on, high-speed Internet product spurred phone companies to offer competing DSL technology, a broadband data technology that was invented over a decade ago.

Cable has taken an early lead in the investment and marketing of cable service, but there are a number of other providers in the broadband marketplace. Consumers today have access to an expanding choice of broadband providers, including wireless, satellite and alternative broadband suppliers.

According to a March 2003 report in Cable Datacom News, the cable modem and DSL residential customer total reached approximately 16.7 million in the U.S. at the end of 2002, out of an estimated 105 million who have access to broadband service. Of the 15 percent of residential customers currently purchasing wireline broadband service, approximately 67.4 percent are cable modem customers and 32.6 percent are DSL customers. Others purchase broadband service from providers of fixed wireless, satellite or other technologies. Every broadband provider has the same ability and opportunity to sell service to the remaining, large group of untapped potential customers and need not take a customer from another provider in order to gain one.

I urge the FCC to adopt rules that ensure the existence of true, head to head facilities-based competition for all types of communications services, especially voice telephony and broadband.

HONORING MERYL FEREN

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 25, 2003

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mrs. Meryl Feren, a great Floridian, a caring wife and mother, and a charitable activist. Originally from Bronx, NY, Mrs. Feren moved to Sunrise, FL in 1980 and soon began a noted career in business and charity services.

Mrs. Feren, the wife of current Sunrise Mayor Steve Feren, made an indelible impression upon the South Florida community. The couple first met while studying at Queens College in New York City, and soon married and moved to South Florida. Since arriving to Sunrise, Meryl Feren started a successful mortgage-foreclosure research business. Her business expertise and ability to work with others garnered her the respect of many in the business community.